MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR E	ligible:	yes X no
r: AA-2314	1	
_ Zip Code:	21401	
evaluated a d	istrict?_	yes

Property Name: Adams Park School Inventory Number City: Annapolis Address: 245 Clay Street USGS Topographic Map: Annapolis County: Anne Arundel Is the property being Owner: Anne Arundel County Tax Parcel Number: 17-293 Tax Map Number: 3Z Tax Account ID Numbe MD 70 over Weems and College Creeks Agency: SHA Site visit by MHT staff: X no Name: Date: Is the property is located within a historic district? yes X no If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District: Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ____yes ____ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ____ yes If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yes Considerations: A B C D E F G X A B C Criteria: None Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP form AA2314 Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo) The Adams Park Elementary School sits on the former site of Adams Park, located on the north shore of the western end of College Creek. The school is a two-story brick building with a flat roof. Large bands of windows line the east and west elevations of the main classroom building. Stairwells sit at the north and south ends of the building. The main entrance to the school building leads into the one-story office area, which connects the gymnasium with the main body of the school. There is a one-story addition behind the gymnasium and the office area. The school is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A for education and social history and Criteria C for architecture. The school falls under Criteria Consideration G as a property that has achieved significance within the past fifty years due to its association with Annapolis's desegregation history. Built in 1957, Adams Park was one of the eight schools built with funds originally provided in 1947 and 1949 for the consolidation of African American schools in the Greater Annapolis area. The school was built following the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka landmark decision that led to the end of segregation. Adams Park opened in 1959, three years after the endorsement of non-segregated classrooms, but only African Americans attended during the first years of the school. By 1966, when Anne Arundel County was officially desegregated, Adams Park School remained one of thirteen all black schools in the county. The school's form and fabric has changed little over time. Its architecture reflects the influence of Modernism on public buildings during the mid-twentieth MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended Criteria: XA B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None **MHT Comments** 7/31/03 Reviewer Office of Preservation Services Date Reviewer, NR Program

Adams Park School	Inventory Number: AA-2314	
Page 2		
century.		

Date Prepared:

6/24/03

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Prepared by: K. Janowski, KCI Technologies, Inc.

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Adams Park Elementary School (AA-2314)
245 Clay Street
Annapolis
1957-1958
Private

The Adams Park Elementary School sits on the former site of Adams Park, located on the north shore of the western end of College Creek. The school is a two-story brick building with a flat roof. Large bands of windows line the east and west elevations of the main classroom building. Stairwells sit at the north and south ends of the building. The main entrance to the school building leads into the one-story office area, which connects the gymnasium with the main body of the school. There is a one-story addition behind the gymnasium and the office area.

The school is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A for education and social history and Criteria C for architecture. The school falls under Criteria Consideration G as a property that has achieved significance within the past fifty years due to its association with Annapolis's desegregation history. Built in 1957, Adams Park was one of the eight schools built with funds originally provided in 1947 and 1949 for the consolidation of African American schools in the Greater Annapolis area. The school was built following the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka landmark decision that led to the end of segregation. Adams Park opened in 1959, three years after the endorsement of non-segregated classrooms, but only African Americans attended during the first years of the school. By 1966, when Anne Arundel County was officially desegregated, Adams Park School remained one of thirteen all black schools in the county. The school's form and fabric has changed little over time. Its architecture reflects the influence of Modernism on public buildings during the mid-twentieth century.

Inventory No. AA-2314

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

historic	Adams Park So	hool				
other	Anne Arundel Cou	nty Learning Center				
2. Location					-	
street and number	245 Clay Street				'	not for publication
city, town	Annapolis					vicinity
county	Anne Arundel					-
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and ma	iling addresses of al	l owners)		
name	Anne Arui	ndel County Board of E	ducation			
street and number	2644 Riva	Road	-	tel	ephone	
city, town	Annapolis		state MD	ziţ	code 21	401
4. Location	of Legal De	escription				
courthouse, registry	y of deeds, etc.			liber	folio	
				17-293	toy ID nu	mber 06-000-00154204
	N Carl	Additional Da	ata	17-293	tax io iiu	-
5. Primary L Contri Contri Deterr Deterr Recor	buting Resource in buting Resource in mined Eligible for the mined Ineligible for ded by HABS/HAE ic Structure Report	Additional Da National Register District Local Historic District ne National Register/Ma the National Register/M	ata ict ryland Register laryland Register	17-293	tax ID IIu	mber 00-000-0013420-
5. Primary L Contri Contri Deterr Recon	buting Resource in buting Resource in mined Eligible for th mined Ineligible for ded by HABS/HAE ic Structure Report	Additional Da National Register District Local Historic District ne National Register/Ma the National Register/Ma	ata ict ryland Register laryland Register		Resource Co	

7. Description		Inventory No. AA-2314
Condition		
excellent	deteriorated	
X good	ruins	
fair	altered	

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Adams Park School sits on the north shore of the western end of College Creek. The site was originally Adams Park, hence the name of the school. The school is situated on roughly ten acres of land bordered by College Creek, which is edged by a line of trees. The NAACP Freedom Grove is part of the school grounds, which in conjunction with the Chesapeake Bay Trust recently planted vegetation and landscaped portions of the property. The grove commemorates ongoing efforts to promote civil rights in Annapolis, as well the commitment to preserve and protect the natural environment.

Built in 1957, the school is a simple one and two-story brick building with minimal ornamentation. The largest section of the school is a two-story classroom wing. This simple, rectangular wing has a flat roof. Large walls of windows line the east and west elevations of the wing, with fixed windows interspersed with hoppers and awnings. The south elevation has casement windows. Open, well-light stairwells sit at the north and south ends of the wing. The school's main entrance leads into the one-story office area, which connects the gymnasium with the main classrooms. There is a one-story addition behind the gymnasium and the office area.

The classroom wing with a long central hall lined with lockers and classrooms. The classrooms have full walls of windows providing natural lights and views of the outside. The floors are linoleum and the walls finished concrete block, and wood doors lead to the classrooms. The gymnasium doubles as an auditorium and has a stage at one end. Like the classrooms, it is has natural light from the row of windows near the ceiling. The arched ceiling is light colored in order to reflect the light. There has been little alteration to the school since its construction.

8. Signific	ance			Inventory No. AA-2314
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	economics deducation engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	 health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military 	performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science X social history transportation other:
Specific dates	1957		Architect/Builder	
Construction da	ates 1957			
Evaluation for:X	National Register	XN	Maryland Register	not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Adams Park School is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A for education and social history and Criteria C for architecture. The school falls under Criteria Consideration G as a property that has achieved significance within the past fifty years due to its association with Annapolis's desegregation history. Built in 1957, Adams Park was one of the eight schools built with funds originally provided in 1947 and 1949 for the consolidation of African American schools in the Greater Annapolis area. The school was built following the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka* landmark decision that led to the end of segregation. Adams Park opened in 1959, three years after the endorsement of non-segregated classrooms, but only African Americans attended during the first years of the school. By 1966, when Anne Arundel County was officially desegregated, Adams Park School remained one of thirteen all black schools in the county. The school's form and fabric has changed little over time. Its architecture reflects the influence of Modernism on public buildings during the mid-twentieth century.

African American Education in Anne Arundel County

Though African Americans have historically been a significant portion of Annapolis' population, their treatment in the educational system did not always equal that of the rest of the population. After the Civil War, African Americans in Anne Arundel County established their own private school. In 1868, black Methodist laymen funded the Galilean Fisherman School. The school ran until 1900, when a public school opened.

The first public school for African Americans in Annapolis was the Stanton School. Though it was publicly funded, many discrepancies existed between facilities at the Stanton School and schools for Annapolis' white population, as well as in the entire educational system. In 1915, the school year for white children was 180 days, while it was only 140 days for black children. Black children were not provided transportation to school. Also, the state legislature established different pay scales for black and white teachers, despite the fact that teachers had the same certification and duties. The highest public education level for African Americans was elementary school. If parents wanted their children to receive secondary education, they sent them to black colleges with high school programs.

In 1917, the first African American public high school in Annapolis opened in the existing Stanton School building. The increase in students in the building crowded the school. Yet due to the need and desire for a public high school for black children, the teachers and pupils endured.

Finally, in the early 1930s, due to the efforts of the Stanton Parent-Teachers Association, Wiley H. Bates, and other interested Annapolis citizens, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education recognized the need for a separate building for African American high school students.² In 1932, the Wiley H. Bates High School was erected at a cost of \$58,596.³

¹ See National Park Service Stanton School National Register Nomination Form, 1983

² Brown 1994: 60.

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The late 1930s showed some improvements in equality in education for African Americans. In 1938, public transportation was implemented. Four buses covering five routes for Bates High School began transporting children to school. In 1939, busing began for elementary school children. In 1940, the pay scales for white and black teachers were equalized. In the same year, the school year length was standardized as well.

The stresses of overcrowding and inadequate facilities on Annapolis black schools continued. In 1939, the Stanton School was damaged by fire. It was rebuilt, but without its third floor. For the next twenty years, in an effort to ease overcrowding, grades one through five attended only half-days, or some classes met in lodge halls or church basements. For a few years, some classes were held in the Bates High School Annex.

Throughout Anne Arundel County there were many one and two-room schoolhouses that served a small number of children. In the 1920s, plans had been implemented to reduce the number of these small schools, but it had only been successful with white schools. Between 1926 and 1947, the number of black elementary schools had only been reduced by two. In 1947, \$7 million bond provided funding for the building of larger schools. Two years later, another \$5.5 million was provided resulting in the construction of eight new black elementary schools, and additions to three existing schools. Adams Park was one of the eight new schools constructed with these funds. The new school cost \$881, 810.71, and had twenty rooms and the capacity for 600 students and 22 teachers. Students from the Stanton School attended Adams Park School, as well as other students from around the county. Stanton students were no longer spread out wherever there were rooms for classes, and they were finally under one roof again.

Desegregation

In 1954, the Supreme Court decided that separate educational facilities for blacks and whites were unconstitutional. The case, *Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, was sparked when Linda Brown was denied admission to a white school. The NAACP filed the suit, and it opened the doors for desegregation of schools and any public place. Yet the Supreme Court did not set forth any guidelines on how desegregation should be accomplished. It was left up to the states to carry it out. In Maryland, the city of Baltimore promptly began desegregating its school system. Other areas waited until there were guidelines on how to desegregate. In May of 1954, the Maryland State Board of Education stated that local school boards would have to determine how the desegregation process was to be settled. In Anne Arundel County, the County Board of Education passed a resolution in May 1955 to appoint a committee to oversee the desegregation process in the county. This biracial committee issued a questionnaire for the county's residents. Questions included "Do you prefer sending your child to the nearest school regardless of racial population or to the school of your choice?" or "What steps do you recommend be taken to condition your community relative to integration?" The county is residented.

The survey helped answer questions as to how desegregation should be approached. In May 1956, the Board of Education declared that in September 1956 the first three grades of school would be integrated, that the integration would expand one or more grades each year, and when possible, the child in the first three grades shall have the choice of attending the nearest school or attending his or her present school. Some members of the African American community felt this staged plan was a recalcitrant approach to desegregation. Though Adams Park School was built in 1957-8, it remained primarily an African American school.

³ See National Park Service Bates Wiley H. High School National Register Nomination Form, 1994.

⁺ Brown 1988:93.

⁵ Ibid. 87.

⁶ Ibid. 88.

⁷ Ibid. 116.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

The freedom to choose the school one attended meant that some schools remained socially segregated. Adams Park Elementary School was one of these schools. Students and parents chose to attend Adams Park School, and it remained an African American school, which was allowable because it officially met the criteria for desegregation. For over ten years the school remained African American. Seventy-five percent of the county's African American children attended all black schools with all black faculties. Adams Park School was one of the thirteen all black schools that remained in Anne Arundel County ten years after desegregation had been made law.

Today, the school is the Anne Arundel County Learning Center, which serves students of a variety of ethnic backgrounds with special education needs for grades six through eight.

Modern Architecture

The school's design reflects the influence of Modernism on public architecture in America during the mid-twentieth century. With origins in early twentieth-century European avant-garde movements, the style emphasized utilitarian forms, linear lines, and an absence of traditional ornamentation. Practitioners, such as Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, and Mies van der Rohe, subscribed to a "less is more" design philosophy and celebrated the machine age by incorporating mass-produced materials into their buildings. Modernism espoused rationality and efficiency in building technology. In America, the style first took hold during the 1930s, largely due to its use by New Deal era federal agencies, such as Roosevelt's Public Works Administration. Modernism suited the needs of those who believed architecture could be an instrument for improving social ills. Following World War II, Modernism reached widespread acceptance across the country. The ahistorical, visually austere aesthetic appealed to a generation eager to break with the past and looking forward to a time of peace and prosperity. The style is associated with the mid-century period of urban renewal, when large areas of cities, often historic neighborhoods, were bulldozed to make way for the new.

The use of Modernism for the Adams Park School can be seen as emblematic of a period of history were Annapolitians were attempting to break with the past. At the time of its construction, the school's design reflected hopes for a new era of education. The use of large walls of windows that allowed for natural light in the classrooms followed the Modern principle of integrating buildings with their surrounding and nature. The building also featured elements of the style such as a distinct flat roof, dominant horizontal lines, and a complete lack of tradition detail. The classroom wing is an example of a "Miesian box," a simple structural cage with a cladding system of a lightweight veneer of glass and metal panels. There has been little alteration to the school's original design.

⁸ Ibid.132.

⁹ Mark Gelernter, A History of American Architecture, Buildings in their Cultural and Technological Context, Hanover, University of New England Press, 1999, 266.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. AA-2314

Brown, Philip L. <u>The Other Annapolis, 1900-1950</u>. Annapolis: The Annapolis Publishing Company, 1994.

Brown, Philip L. A Century of "Separate But Equal" Education in Anne Arundel County. New York: Vantage Press, Inc., 1988.

National Park Service. Stanton School National Register Nomination Form, 1983.

National Park Service, Bates Wiley H. High School National Register Nomination Form, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 9.9

Acreage of historical setting 9.9

Quadrangle name Annapolis Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of this property is the tax parcel 17-293, which the school sits on. It is bordered the the south and east by College Creek, to the west and north by Clay Street. This is the land which Adams Park, a recreational area, once was, and for which the school was named. It is also the boundary of Anne Arundel County Board of Education ownership.

11. Form Prepared by

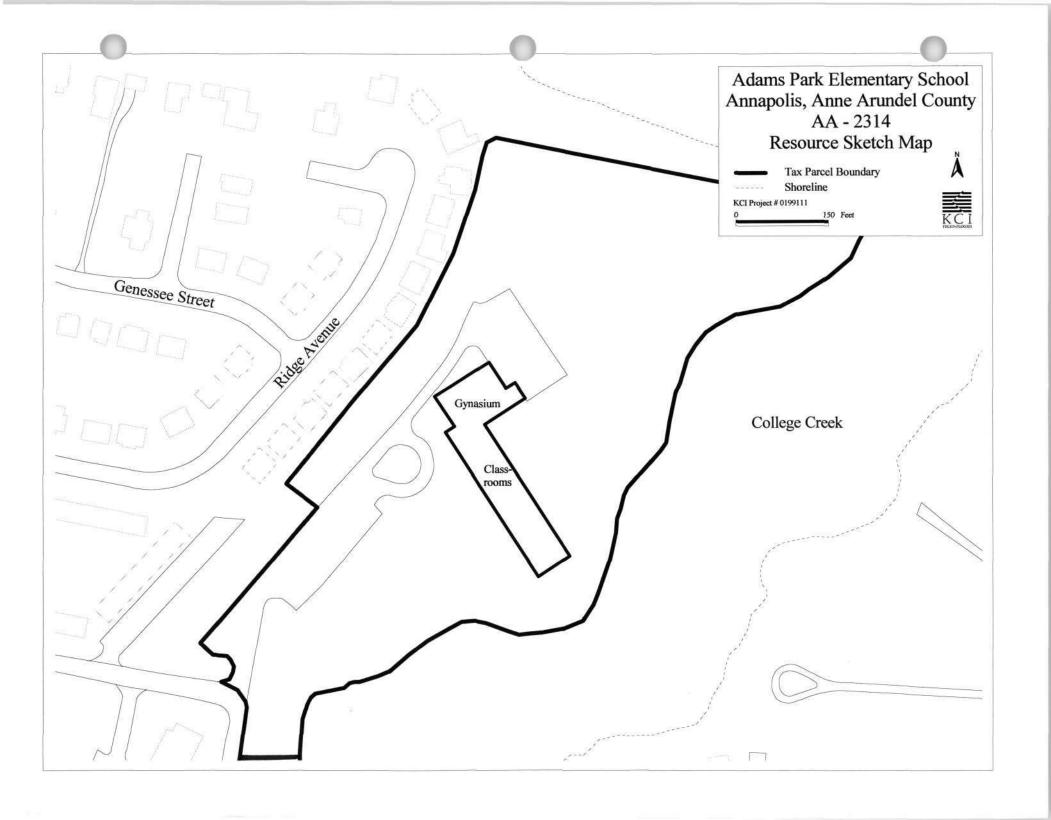
name/title	Kristen E. Janowski and Melissa Hess/Architectural Historians		
organization	KCI Technologies, Inc.	date	June 2003
street & number	5001 Louise Drive Suite 201	telephone	717.691.1340
city or town	Mechanicsburg	state	PA

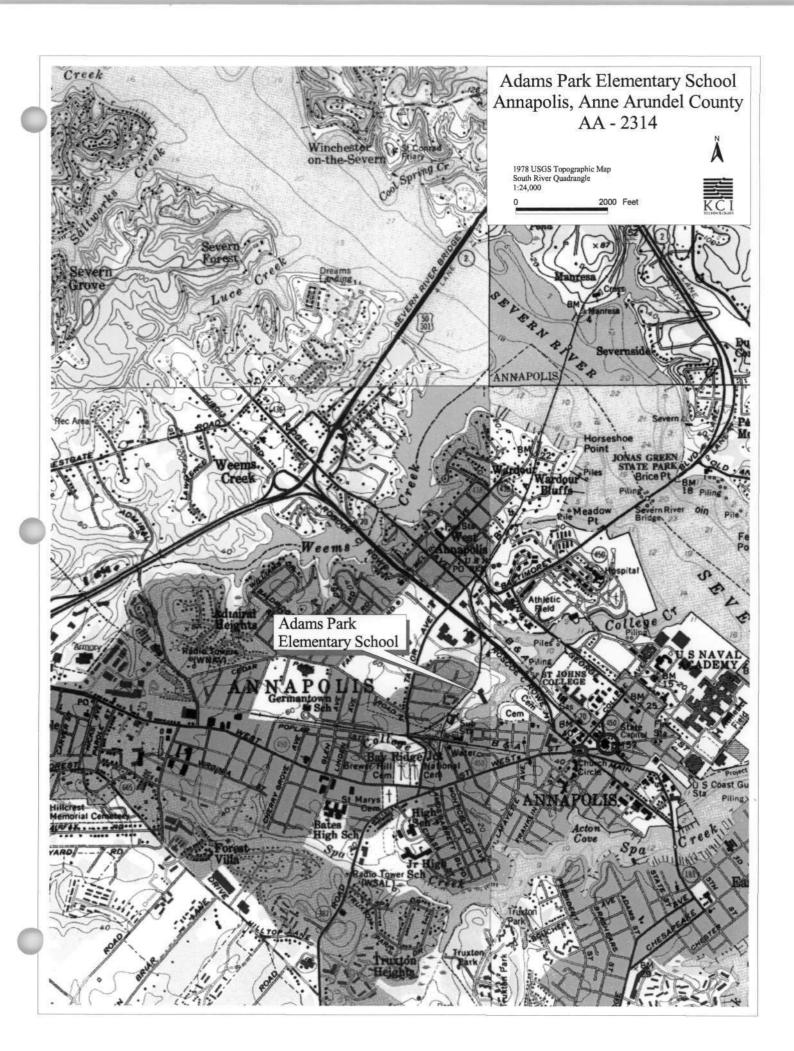
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600







Adams Park School Anne Anondel Co. Emery West abovation



Co.,, elevation



AA 2314 Adams Park School Frue Arundel Co. MD Janet Emery June 2003 0 a West elevation 1/3/01/12



Adams Part Schoo Anne Arondel Co. MD



AA-2314 Adams Park Schu Anne Arondel Co., MD Janet Emery June 2003 MD SHRO South elevation of school



A-2314 & Arundel Co. MD elevation



AA-2314 Adams Park School Anne Arundol Co. MD binet Emery une 2003 (ASD SHPO Addition in northeast corner borth seast obvation 70/12/5



THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PROFILE (NAMCE) WAS FOUNDED IN 1944 AND IS THE OLDEST AND LARGEST CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTY. IT IS A BRANCH THAT IS EXTENDING ITS LIMBS TO PROMOTE EQUALITY. FLOURISH ITS STEMS TO ESTABLISH JUSTICE: AND EXPAND ITS BOUGH TO HELP MAKE THIS A BETTER COUNTY.

FREEDOM CROVE. THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NAACF AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST. HAS BEEN PLANTED TO CULTIVATE AND IMPROVE THE GROW'TH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OUR ENVIRONMENT

ENHANCE OUR ENVIRONMENT.

FREEDOM GROVE IS DEDICATED TO ALL OF THE ANNE ARRINDEL COUNTY NAACT PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE WORKED TO CREATE A LEGACY OF GREATER EQUALITY THIS SITE WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE PREMISE THAT PROTECTING THE 'ENVIRONMENT AND ADVANCING CIVIL RIGHTS ARE NECESSARY IN GROER TO IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE FOLLOWING ARE THE PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE CONSTANCE Y, BROWN DRACE IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

CONSTANCE Y, BROWN DRACE WE REVERSIDE OF THE CONSTANCE Y, BROWN DRACE AND THE CONTROL OF THE CONTR

THIS PLACE IS DEVOTED TO THE CITIZENS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MAY THOSE WHO VISIT THIS SITE BE REMINDED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL DUSTICE AND CITYL RIGHTS ARE INTERRELATED.

"IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO THIS: THAT ALL LIFE IS INTERRELATED, WE ARE ALL CAUGHT IN AN INESCAPABLE NETWORK OF MUTUALITY THED INTO A SHOLE GARMENT OF DESTINY, WHATEVER AFFECTS ONE DIRECTLY, AFFECTS US ALL INDIRECTLY-DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, IR.

"A LUTA CONTINUA" THE STRUGBLE CONTINUES

THIS PREEDOM GROVE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE NAACP AND THE CHESAPLANT BAY TRUST



THE NAACE PEREDOM GROVE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

CALL O. SHOW DEN. CHAIN

VINCENT O. HISTORIAN

DAVID J. ONSHELL

LAND J. PORESSAY

75116161, 20, 2002

Adams Park Schoe-Anne Arundel Con, MI Fet Emery Grove Plaque



AA-2314 Adams Park School Anne Annold Co, MC anet Emeny Hallway 9 0613



AA-2314 Adams Park Schoot Anne Arendel Co Mi Janet Emery



AA-2314 Adams Park School Anne Arundet Co. MD and Emery tone 20036 ditorium / Garnasium interior of 12



AA-2314 Adams Park School Anne Arondet Co. MD Janet Emery June 20030 MD SHPO Cafeteria 12 of 12